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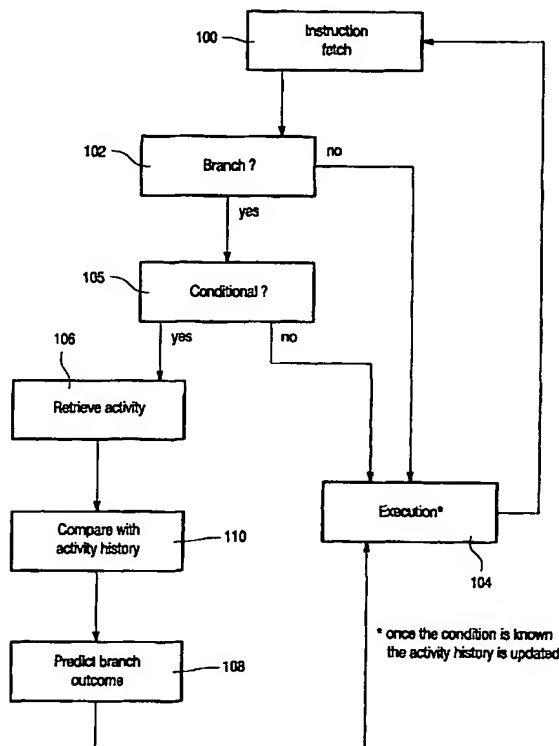
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR BRANCH PREDICTION



(57) Abstract: A system and method for predicting the outcome of a conditional branch within a computer system, the method comprising the steps of identifying (105) the occurrence of a conditional branch, obtaining (106) data relating to system activity since a previous branch, comparing (110) said data with data relating to previous system activity, and predicting (108) the branch outcome based on such comparison. An activity monitor (Figure 3 - 20) may be used to provide the data relating to system activity.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F9/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 729 726 A (LEVINE ET AL) 17 March 1998 (1998-03-17) column 2, line 47 - column 3, line 10 column 20, line 15 - column 21, line 7 claims 1,14	1,8
A	WO 98/36350 A (TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON ; HOLMBERG, PER) 20 August 1998 (1998-08-20) abstract	1,8
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>RECHES S ET AL: "IMPLEMENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF PATH HISTORY IN DYNAMIC BRANCH PREDICTION SCHEMES"</p> <p>PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1997 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUPERCOMPUTING. VIENNA, JULY 7 - 11, 1997, PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUPERCOMPUTING, NEW YORK, ACM, US, vol. CONF. 11, 7 July 1997 (1997-07-07), pages 285-292, XP000755269</p> <p>ISBN: 0-89791-902-5</p> <p>-----</p>	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
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